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PEACE OPERATIONS AT THE WEST.

LET US HAVE PEACE. — Under this caption the *Des Moines Daily Register* thus reports a lecture on Peace. — The lecturer started out with the statement that public opinion in all ages had been the moving power in every war, and that no king or princely conqueror had ever successfully entered the field of battle with the opinion of the people adverse to him, and the cause for which he was battling. He traced the track of the bloody demon of war through all the long and dark centuries to the time when printing was first invented, when the more horrible phases of war were in a measure mitigated by the advance of civilization. Public opinion was then slowly enlightened, and the stray beams of truth that broke out here and there from the enshrouded moral gloom that covered all the nations of the earth, exerted a powerful influence in the sway of public opinion. It was that power which made and unmade kings and rulers; it made war, or it checked it: it consigned seventy thousand Christians to death in one night in France; and it had caused the death of twenty-five thousand millions of men in battle since the creation, and the expenditure and destruction of treasure sufficient to purchase twenty-five worlds like ours. He paid his respects to the debt-burdened people of the European countries, where no less than 7,000,000 men were kept as a standing army, which consumed the flower of the youth of the land, and unfitted them for any of the peaceful pursuits of life.

The foolishness of war was exhibited in that where one nation warred with another for years about an old oaken bucket, about a bar of iron, and kindred causes that would not have been creditable even for school boys of the present age to quarrel about. The wars of the past centuries had hindered civilization, and the material development of all the countries which it had scourged and cursed, and thrown them back in the grand march of improvement that God intended they should make. As to the wars of one nation alone, — England, — history recorded 266 years of bloody strife between that nation and France, from the eleventh century down to the peace of 1815. All the other European countries had similar records; and to-day their teeming multitudes are groaning under the burdens of taxation entailed upon them by the fiend of war. Standing armies caused ten wars where they prevented one, as had been proved by the records of all nations, and were the means of draining the countries that kept them of at least eighty per cent. of the money raised for public purposes by taxation.

That war is cruelly wrong in this enlightened age is known by every enlightened Christian. The Holy Scriptures teach peace always, and all its apostles and the Son of God practiced it while on earth. Therefore, it is the duty of every one professing to be a follower of Him that died on the cross to oppose by all moral effort the butchering of brother by brother, to the end that from every hill-top, valley and glen, in the ages to come, the glad song of "Peace on earth, good will to men," shall ascend from the hearts of all earth's millions. To accomplish this result public sentiment must be Christianized, from every pulpit must be preached the gospel of peace, from every paper must come the council that war is wrong, and to forgive is manly as well as godly. With these influences at work the day is not far in the future that would witness the glad time when nations shall know war no more forever.

The lecturer favored a Congress of Nations, where all difficulties between them could be settled, as are the differences between neighbors in our local courts. It is thought by the ablest men of different nations, that this would be perfectly practicable, and would be fraught with a thousand rich blessings to mankind. A Congress of Nations, or something of that kind, which should be a permanent tribunal, where the mind, which alone has a sense of right, there is no sense of right or wrong in the muscles, or in powder or lead, could determine all international questions. This would do away with the necessity for standing armies, and in doing away with this necessity, it would reduce the expenses of government at least one half.

The mission of the peace societies is not to stop war at its outbreak, for that is perhaps impossible, but it is their mission to sow broadcast all over the land tracts that treat of the great evil, and by educating the public sentiment in that way, and by the help of the pulpit and the press, prevent the wars of

twenty, thirty and forty years hence. An ounce of prevention is worth several pounds of cure in this case. The society which he represented had scattered through the land during the year over two millions of pages of tracts, were issuing seventy-seven different volumes by eminent authors treating on the subject, and had now men engaged in several States in furthering the cause. The lecturer made a very plain and practical illustration of the expenses of the war system of our own government, showing that \$149,000,000 had been expended in the year 1868, and showing what could have been done with that amount if applied to the purposes of civilization, and the education of the unlearned masses. His lecture was well received by the audience; and the maxim Let us have Peace, as expressed by our Chief Magistrate, was the hope and wish of all present.

GENERAL ITEMS.

METHODIST BOOK CONCERN— is a vast establishment, its assets amounting to \$1,165,625 above all its liabilities, and its earnings last year \$152,383.

POPULATION OF CHINA— would seem hardly credible. In 1842 it amounted to 414,000,000, and in 1852 was reported to be 537,000,000; more than all Europe, and North and South America combined; increasing, too, at a greater rate than any part of the world except our own country. This last report, however, we cannot well believe—123 millions, in crease in ten years; but China doubtless contains nearly, if not quite, two-fifths of all the people on the globe.

TELEGRAPHS.— There are at least 28,000 miles of wires in the United States, all but 4,000 held by the Western Union Telegraph Company.

RAIL-ROADS IN THE UNITED STATES.— There are 40,000 miles in round numbers, giving employment, it is estimated, to nearly half a million men.

PREVALENCE OF CRIME.— There were in March, 1869, thirteen prisoners confined in the Tombs of New York charged with murder, four of them women! Yet we now and then hear even Christian ministers, Doctors of Divinity, congratulating the public on the high and hopeful tone given to our morals by our Rebellion War! What weather-cocks some of our religious teachers are, not directing public opinion, but serving mainly to show which way the wind blows. Accustomed so long to laud "our brave soldiers," and repeat, parrot-like, the stale self-glorifications so current during the rebellion, they still keep up the old strain, while three-quarters of the convicts in our largest States-Prisons were, one or two years after the rebellion, profligates and villains gathered from our "patriotic soldiers," our "boys in blue."

AGRICULTURE OF ENGLAND.— Official returns of British agriculture show that the total number of acres under tillage and pasturage last year in the United Kingdom was, 45,652,000, which is an increase of 265,000 acres over 1867. This increase, however, is thought to be due to more comprehensive returns of pasturage. Of the whole number of acres, 11,659,000 were under grain crops, 4,865,000 under green crops, 984,000 under bare fallow, 5,690,000 under grass, and 22,164,000, or nearly one-half of the whole, under permanent pasturage. Compared with 1867, there was an increase of 227,000 acres of grain, and a decrease of 170,000 upon green crops. A marked advance is shown in the number of cattle and sheep. In the United Kingdom the total increase in cattle amounts to 852,000. In Great Britain the increase is 430,000; but there is a decrease of 82,000 in Ireland. The number of sheep in the United Kingdom is larger in 1868 than in 1867 by 1,790,000. The increase occurred exclusively in Great Britain, the number of sheep in Ireland showing scarcely any difference in the two years. As regards pigs, there is a decrease to the extent of 1,032,000 for the United Kingdom.

BRITISH COMMERCE.— Tables recently published show that the export commerce of Great Britain for 1868 fell off, as compared with that of the year preceding, to the extent of 1,498,279 pounds sterling. Seventy-two per cent of the exports of the year went to foreign countries, twenty-eight per cent to